

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of validating a request, said method comprising:  
receiving a request that affects an item;  
identifying a version of the item based on a first time;  
determining whether the request affects an object associated with the item;  
identifying a version of the object based on a second time when the  
request affects the object; and  
completing the request based on the version of the item and the version of  
the object.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the request comprises receiving  
a request for deleting the item.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein identifying the version of the item  
comprises retrieving a timestamp for the item.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein identifying the version of the item  
comprises retrieving the timestamp and an identifier for the item.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the version of the object  
comprises retrieving a timestamp for the object.

6. The method of claim 6, wherein identifying the version of the object comprises retrieving the timestamp and an identifier for the object.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein completing the request based on the version of the item and the version of the object comprises:

determining whether the version of the item matches the version of the object; and

completing the request when the versions of the item and object match.

8. The method of claim 2, wherein completing the request based on the version of the item and the version of the object comprises:

determining whether the version of the item is older than the version of the object; and

completing the request when the version of the item is older than the version of the object.

9. An apparatus for validating a request, said apparatus comprising:

- means for receiving a request that affects an item;
- means for identifying a version of the item based on a first time;
- means for determining whether the request affects an object associated with the item;
- means for identifying a version of the object based on a second time when the request affects the object; and
- means for completing the request based on the version of the item and the version of the object.

10. A computer program product encoded with program code for validating a request, said medium comprising

- program code for receiving a request that affects an item;
- program code for identifying a version of the item based on a first time;
- program code for determining whether the request affects an object associated with the item;
- program code for identifying a version of the object based on a second time when the request affects the object; and
- program code for completing the request based on the version of the item and the version of the object.

11. The medium of claim 10, further comprising program code for receiving a request for deleting the item.

12. The medium of claim 10, further comprising program code for retrieving a timestamp for the item.

13. The medium of claim 10, further comprising program code for retrieving the timestamp and an identifier for the item.

14. The medium of claim 10, further comprising program code for retrieving a timestamp for the object.

15. The medium of claim 14, further comprising program code for retrieving the timestamp and an identifier for the object.

16. The medium of claim 10, further comprising:  
program code for determining whether the version of the item matches the version of the object; and  
program code for completing the request when the versions of the item and object match.

17. The medium of claim 11, further comprising:  
program code for determining whether the version of the item is older than the version of the object; and  
program code for completing the request when the version of the item is older than the version of the object.

18. A method of processing requests that delete an item, wherein the item includes associated objects, said method comprising:  
receiving a request that deletes an item;  
identifying a first age of the item affected by the request;  
retrieving information indicating a second age of at least one associated object; and  
selectively deleting the item and the at least one associated object based on whether the first age of the item is greater than or equal to the second age of the at least one associated object.

19. An apparatus for processing requests that delete an item, wherein the item includes associated objects, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a request that deletes an item;

means for identifying a first age of the item affected by the request;

means for retrieving information indicating a second age of at least one associated object; and

means for selectively deleting the item and the at least one associated object based on whether the first age of the item is greater than or equal to the second age of the at least one associated object.